

WHEREAS, The General Assembly acknowledges the existence of the Federal Aid to Families with Dependent Children Program, but realizes that, because of changes effected by the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1981, this program no longer provides adequate financial resources to meet the special needs of the low-income pregnant woman during her entire pregnancy; ~~now, therefore,~~

WHEREAS, The General Assembly intends to assist needy pregnant women in obtaining adequate nutritional and health care between the second and sixth months of pregnancy when they are not otherwise eligible for assistance pursuant to the Federal Aid to Families with Dependent Children Program; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland read(s) as follows:

Article 88A - Social Services Administration

65C.

(A) (1) THE STATE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT AND, AS NECESSARY, MODIFY A PROGRAM OF GENERAL PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY PREGNANT WOMEN WHO ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR ANY OTHER STATE OR FEDERAL CATEGORY OF DIRECT CASH ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS.

(2) THE PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE STATE AND ~~LOCALLY~~ FUNDED ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS TO PREGNANT WOMEN RESIDENTS OF THIS STATE WHO ~~TEMPORARILY~~ REQUIRE ASSISTANCE BETWEEN THE SECOND AND SIXTH MONTH OF THE PREGNANCY.

(3) THE PROGRAM SHALL BE KNOWN AS GENERAL PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR PREGNANT WOMEN.

~~(B) THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED IN PARAGRAPH (A) SHALL BE IN EFFECT IN ALL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THIS STATE AND SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE LOCAL UNITS IN CONFORMITY WITH RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION~~ IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE A WOMAN SHALL PROVIDE MEDICAL VERIFICATION OF PREGNANCY AND VERIFICATION OF PARTICIPATION IN A PRENATAL CARE PROGRAM.

(C) ELIGIBILITY AND ALL OTHER REQUIREMENTS, NOT SET FORTH IN THIS SUBTITLE, SHALL BE ESTABLISHED BY RULES AND REGULATIONS PROMULGATED BY THE ~~SOCIAL---SERVICES~~ STATE ADMINISTRATION.

~~(D)---SUPPORT---FROM---CHILDREN---SHALL---BE---REGARDED---AS---A POTENTIAL---RESOURCE---AND---EVALUATED---AS---TO---AMOUNT---AND AVAILABILITY,---AS---DETERMINED---BY---RULE---AND---REGULATION---OF---THE STATE-ADMINISTRATION.~~